



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 January 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Washington Post reports Microsoft Corp.'s latest round of software patches fails to fix a flaw in its Internet Explorer Web browser that makes it easier for online criminals to dupe people into disclosing their credit card numbers, passwords and other private data. (See item [8](#))
- CBS News reports there are 19,000 small, insecure, general aviation airports in the United States, presenting a possible opportunity for terrorists. (See item [13](#))
- The El Paso Times reports all 60 El Paso reservoirs were inspected after a vandalism incident at two of the reservoirs. (See item [19](#))
- The Global Security Newswire/Agence France–Presse reports six suspected Islamic extremists were placed under formal investigation over allegations that they were aiding plans for a biological or chemical attack on French soil. (See item [33](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 14, Reuters* — Transformer explodes at Pennsylvania nuclear plant. A transformer exploded Tuesday, January 13, at the Exelon's Limerick nuclear station in

Pennsylvania due to an electrical malfunction in the plant's turbine building, the company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in an event report on Wednesday, January 14. Security personnel at the plant conducted a "thorough walk-down of all areas and had no concerns," the company said in the report. Both 1,196 megawatt units 1 and 2 at the plant remained at full power during the incident. The malfunction was isolated to the individual transformer and did not affect the safety of the plant, the company said. Following the explosion, Exelon declared an unusual event, which is the lowest of four levels of emergency classification used by the NRC. The company exited the event within about two hours. The company said it was investigating the cause of the transformer failure. The Limerick station is located in Pottstown, PA, about 21 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040114/utilities_exelon_limerick_1.h tml

2. *January 13, Tampa Tribune (FL)* — **Power plant security increased at Florida stations. Antiterrorism officers armed with 9 mm handguns, AR-15 semiautomatic rifles and 12-gauge shotguns now patrol power plants at Tampa Electric Co. in Florida.** The specially trained security force of about 32 began guarding the utility's Big Bend, Gannon/Bayside and Polk power stations and other facilities Sunday, January 11, to ensure the lights stay on in the company's 2,000- square-mile territory in Hillsborough County and parts of Pinellas, Pasco and Polk counties. They'll be deployed around the clock. **Tampa Electric spokesperson Ross Bannister said the heightened security is the result of a greater emphasis on protecting the company's infrastructure rather than any specific threats.** In August, Tampa Electric hired a corporate security consultant to assess the utility's vulnerability to terrorism. After evaluating the report, the utility decided an armed force would be appropriate to protect Tampa Electric's vital power generating resources. New federal guidelines require armed guards at nuclear facilities, but not at other power plants, energy control centers, substations and other critical electrical facilities.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_krt.htm?SMDOCID=knightridder_2004_01_13_krtbn_0000-0167-TM-UTILIT Y-SECURITY&SMContentSet=0

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Chemical Sector

3. *January 14, AccessNorthGa.com* — **Ammonia leak contained in Gainesville. Gainesville, GA's Memorial Park Drive was blocked for about three hours Tuesday night as a Hazmat team contained an ammonia leak at Prime Pak Foods.** Hall County Fire Chief Mike Satterfield said about 50 gallons of ammonia, used as refrigerant, spilled at the facility at 2076 Memorial Park Road. "We had a weld break on a four-inch line going to a condenser on the roof," Satterfield said. "A small amount of ammonia got into a storm drain but public utilities workers checked it and everything was secure." Much of the runoff was controlled by dikes. Satterfield said the plant was evacuated safely and no one was injured.

Source: http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/hall/newfullstory.asp?ID=7_8040

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *January 13, Govexec.com* — **Department of Defense plans to reduce number of civilian employees. The Department of Defense will offer buyouts and early retirement to up to 25,000 civilian employees during fiscal 2004, according to Pentagon officials. The buyouts are aimed at reshaping Defense's civilian workforce,** and are capped at \$25,000, according to a December 30, 2003 memo from Ginger Groeber, Defense's deputy undersecretary for civilian personnel policy. According to Groeber, 7,722 buyouts will be allotted to the Army; 7,135 to the Navy; 5,873 to the Air Force; and 4,270 to other Defense agencies. Buyouts offered in connection with base closures will not count toward the 25,000 employee limit. Buyouts and early retirement incentives may be used to either restructure or downsize the workforce. Restructuring buyouts may be used to correct skills imbalances or to reduce the number of high grade, managerial or supervisory positions, the memo said.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0104/011304sz1.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *January 14, Reuters* — **Al Qaeda launders money in Africa. Extremist groups like al Qaeda are using mafia-type methods to launder funds and hide their financial footprints, including through diamond trading in West Africa,** a regional American diplomat said on Tuesday, January 13. Richard Allan Roth, the U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, said money laundering was a thriving criminal enterprise, whether it was through the illegal sale of diamonds from Sierra Leone, prostitution in the Balkans or heroin sales in America. **"But the chiefs of organized crime are not the only ones and we now see that the leaders of global terrorism use similar methods to circulate flows of hidden money to finance and disguise their activities," he said.** "Sometimes the two come together, like when al Qaeda tries to infiltrate the illegal diamond market in West Africa," he told a seminar on money laundering in Senegal's capital Dakar. Senegal is among several West African states drafting legislation to combat money laundering.
Source: http://www.itechnology.co.za/index.php?click_id=68&art_id=qw1074041280250B226&set_id=1
6. *January 13, First Coast News (FL)* — **Attorney General warns of credit card scam. Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist is warning consumers to be alert for a clever scam designed to trick consumers into revealing numbers on their credit card accounts. Callers identifying themselves as representatives of the fraud department of major credit card providers claim to be acting to help consumers receive a refund of fraudulent charges of between \$300 and \$500 allegedly placed on their credit cards. To gain the consumer's trust, the caller indicates the need to "verify" that the consumer still possesses his or her own credit card. After gaining the trust of the consumer, callers are able to obtain vital numbers in the credit card accounts and quickly begin to purchase items with the account numbers. Both Visa and MasterCard have confirmed that this scam is currently being perpetrated in several states.**
Source: http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/news-article.aspx?s_toryid=13408

7. *January 13, Computerworld* — **Scam targets Worldnet customers. AT&T Worldnet Service, AT&T's ISP arm, is warning customers that they may have been targeted by an e-mail scam designed to capture their credit card information. The company learned last week that some of its customers had received fraudulent e-mail messages purporting to be from AT&T Worldnet Service,** says Tom Hopkins, an AT&T spokesperson. He says the company then sent e-mail to its customers warning them about the scam. Hopkins says the e-mail messages contain the subject line "Billing Update Requested (Urgent)." They direct customers to a spoofed, or fake, Website and ask them to supply their credit card information. Hopkins declined to say exactly how many customers had fallen victim to the scam. However, he noted that AT&T has already arranged for the bogus Websites to be removed.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,114307,00.asp>

8. *January 13, Washington Post* — **Microsoft patches fail to fix dangerous security flaw. Microsoft Corp.'s latest round of software patches fails to fix a flaw in its Internet Explorer Web browser that makes it easier for online criminals to dupe people into disclosing their credit card numbers, passwords and other private data.** Security experts were hoping that the patches, which were released Tuesday, January 13, would address the problem, but a Microsoft official said that the company is still devising a fix. **The flaw lets criminals control the information displayed in the address bar of Explorer's browser window. It was most recently used to trick people into visiting a forged version of the Citibank Website.** Once there, users were prompted to share personal identification and credit card account numbers. Last week, an e-mail scam tried to steal information from subscribers to Earthlink, the nation's third-largest Internet service provider. The false Websites are the latest twist on "phishing scams," e-mails that lure customers into divulging their personal and financial information. Vincent Weafer, senior director of anti-virus company Symantec Security Response, said that **the vulnerability also can be used to spread "backdoor Trojans," programs that allow hackers to control a victim's computer.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13587-2004Jan 13.html>

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Transportation Sector

9. *January 14, Washington Post* — **Maryland's I-95 reopened Wednesday, after tanker truck accident. The trouble began when a tank truck carrying flammable liquid plunged over a concrete barrier on a highway overpass in northeastern Howard County and landed in heavy traffic on Interstate 95.** Northbound lanes, which closed at about 3 p.m. yesterday, were reopened after a massive cleanup operation that was completed at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. The closure caused a massive diversion of trucks and cars onto surrounding highways. **At least five vehicles were confirmed caught in the fiery wreck, which encompassed all four northbound lanes.** Flames burned for more than three hours, igniting a five-acre brush fire along the shoulder and complicating early efforts to determine how many vehicles and victims were involved. The vehicles involved were the tanker, two tractor-trailers, a pickup truck and another passenger vehicle. Authorities at the scene said only one person — the driver of a tractor-trailer that struck the tanker — emerged alive from the tangled mass of blackened debris. As of this morning, none of the victims had been identified. **The crash caused a massive traffic mess. The highway is heavily used by workday**

commuters and is a critical north–south artery for the entire East Coast. About 180,000 vehicles travel through the area daily, a state highway official said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A15171-2004Jan 14.html>

10. *January 14, Reuters* — **Man caught at Heathrow with bullets. Police have arrested a Sudanese man under anti–terror laws for carrying bullets at Heathrow airport after flying in from Washington Dulles en route to Dubai. Police originally arrested the man for firearms offences but then said on Wednesday they were holding him under section 41 of the anti–terror law which refers to the "alleged involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism."** They gave no further details. The 45–year–old man was detained after passing through a security check at 7:40 a.m. following his arrival on British airline Virgin Atlantic's VS022 flight. "A quantity of suspected ammunition was found in his possession. The items are being forensically examined," said a statement from London's Scotland Yard police. With the U.S. administration eager to see security beefed up at other airports round the world, Wednesday's incident raised questions as to how the man managed to get past security checks at Dulles airport in Washington. "Doubtless questions are being asked in America as to how he got through their ground security and onto the plane," said Jim McAuslan, general secretary of the British Airline Pilots' Association.

Source: <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=439211§ion=news>

11. *January 14, Associated Press* — **Planes still have many dangerous objects.** Commercial pilot Fred Bates could not board the twin–engine jet he was about to fly from Dallas to Raleigh–Durham, NC, until he passed through a metal detector. Airport screeners had to make sure he was not carrying a pen knife, box cutter or scissors. Yet once aboard, he saw that an elderly passenger was holding a cane — potentially lethal weapon. From knitting needles to ball point pens, passengers still are allowed to bring on all kinds of potential weapons, Bates said. **There are even more things that can be found inside many commercial airliners — mirrors, ice picks, metal silverware — that could help a terrorist.** While the government has made changes aimed at tightening aviation security, some experts believe those efforts have focused too much on what passengers are trying to take on board. **The federal agency acknowledges it cannot keep every possible weapon off an airplane, so it has put in place many levels of security, amounting to what it says is a reasonable defense against terrorism: thousands of air marshals, reinforced cockpit doors, electronic screening of checked baggage for explosives, bomb–sniffing dogs to search airplanes.**

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/01/14/planes_still_have_many_dangerous_objects/

12. *January 14, Miami Today (FL)* — **Miami–Dade plans to spend \$503 million on transportation next year. Get on the bus, get on the train and get out of that car — that is the theme for 2004 as Miami–Dade County invests a half–billion dollars in transportation improvements. The most noticeable transit projects coming online this year will be \$2.1 million worth of additional bus service, improved Tri–Rail and Metrorail cars and road and traffic signals.** According to the county's transportation spending plan for this year, \$503.3 million will go toward transportation improvements, with \$163 million coming from a voter–mandated sales surtax, \$118.6 million from general funds and millions from federal grants. **Miami–Dade Transit took a significant step last month in its plan to connect Port**

of Miami to Miami International Airport by putting out a request for design and engineering services on an extension to the port. Also, the county's transit planning board, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, has decided on a route for an extension to Miami International Airport. An additional 10 miles of Tri-Rail track will go online next month, improving train frequency as part of the double-tracking program. Currently, Tri-Rail shares tracks with commuter rail line Amtrak, and trains must pull over when to allow another commuter train to pass. By 2005, the double-tracking program will be complete.

Source: <http://www.miamitodaynews.com/news/040115/story7.shtml>

13. *January 14, CBS News* — **Are local airports terror targets?** There are 19,000 general aviation airports in the United States, and most are like Eagle's Nest, in Waynesboro, VA, with just a single landing strip. They are a soaring real estate trend: fly-in communities called air parks. "Every house has a paved taxiway to the runway," says Leslie Hock, an Eagle's Nest Air Park realtor. **And, as CBS News Correspondent Bob Orr reports, these general aviation airstrips are an open invitation for terrorists.** "I think it's a real concern," says airport manager John Trissel. Since September 11, 2001, the government has not ordered Trissel to make any security changes at his airport. Would-be passengers and luggage are not screened, says Trissel. "We haven't really implemented the razor wire, the big tall fences, the security gates," says Trissel. Trissel says he tries to keep a close watch on the planes and strangers, but former National Transportation and Safety Board managing director Peter Goelz says, that's not security. **He says terrorists are well aware of these small insecure airports. "That's where they learned to fly," says Goelz. "We know the terrorists trained at small aviation systems. Some argue that there's no need to worry because these are small aircraft. But packed with explosives, small planes could be devastating bombs.**

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/01/14/eveningnews/main59_3216.shtml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

14. *January 14, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Animal health complex.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Ann M. Veneman has announced that President Bush will include \$178 million in the FY 2005 budget to complete the renovation of the USDA's new National Centers for Animal Health. "When completed, the center will become the most modern and best-equipped animal disease research facility in the world," Veneman said. "The request of \$178 million would represent the final installment of the \$460 million needed to fully renovate these facilities," Veneman said. **Veneman said the facility is more important than ever before in the context of recent animal disease threats.** For instance, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory conducted the initial tests to confirm the case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from a single cow in Washington State. **When completed, Veneman said the National Centers for Animal Health would include almost one million**

square feet of modern facilities that will be biosafe and provide state-of-the-art capabilities for research and diagnosis. It will house in a single location a critical mass of scientists who are at the top of their fields with programs across animal disease research, diagnostics, and biologics making USDA better able to respond to foreign animal diseases and bioterrorism.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23084

15. *January 14, USAgNet* — **USDA killing more Washington state cows. As the search for potentially mad cow disease infected animals and feed entered its fourth week, U.S. Department of Agriculture spokesperson Julie Quick said Tuesday that USDA will soon order the killing of three cows on a Mattawa, WA, farm** These cows came from the same Alberta, Canada, herd as the infected Holstein. On Saturday, Agriculture officials began killing 129 more cows in Washington state that could be linked to the Holstein. The animals being killed are from the Mabton, WA, dairy farm that was the infected cow's final home. Investigators have identified nine cows as coming from the same Canadian herd, and cannot eliminate the possibility that the other 120 animals may have been infected. **Officials have so far condemned 581 animals.** Authorities last week killed a herd of 449 bull calves, which included an offspring of the infected cow.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=43&yr=2004>

16. *January 13, Agriculture.com* — **Officials take a closer look at Johne's disease. Bill Shulaw, an Ohio State Extension beef and sheep veterinarian, said Johne's disease, which has been around for over 100 years, is now considered a major disease problem, especially for the cattle industry.** Johne's disease is a chronic bacterial intestinal infection that strikes silently and is hard to eradicate. It can affect a large proportion of the herd and cause production losses, premature culling, and loss of marketability of breeding stock. **"Current estimates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) place the prevalence of the disease at about 22 percent of dairy herds and eight percent of beef herds. These are conservative estimates," said Shulaw.** "This year, the USDA made available about \$20 million to the states for Johne's disease control efforts. It is likely that there will be similar funding for the next fiscal year." Johne's disease strikes beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, and goats. Once it's identified in an animal, chances are the rest of the herd may also be infected. A study conducted in 1996 by the USDA estimated a \$200–250 million loss to the dairy industry alone because of the disease.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=goDe tail_ANewsindex_html_51165_1

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Food Sector

17. *January 14, Reuters* — **Canada bans downer animals from certain slaughter plants. Canada has temporarily banned downer cattle, animals that are unable to stand up, from slaughter plants that export meat to the United States, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) said on Tuesday.** The export control is part of efforts to keep limited trade in Canadian beef to the United States flowing after a Canadian-born cow was found with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Washington state last month. **"The restriction is a temporary measure, intended to prevent any trade disruption while CFIA authorities and**

their American counterparts discuss the equivalence of Canadian BSE measures," CFIA said in an industry notice. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a ban on downer livestock from the food chain on December 31 after it found its first case of mad cow disease in Washington state.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2004-01-14T160932Z_01_N14115382_RTRIDST_0_MADCOW-CANADA-DOWNERS.html

18. *January 13, Reuters* — **FDA places canola plant on import alert. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last month halted a canola meal shipment owned by Bunge Ltd. due to concerns it may have been contaminated with animal muscle tissue, a company spokesperson told Reuters on Tuesday.** The FDA prohibited a canola meal shipment from a CanAmara Foods canola crushing plant in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, from entering the United States on December 23 or 24 because of "suspected contamination," said Deb Seidel, spokesperson for Bunge North America. **The FDA has placed the oilseed processor on "import alert," requiring that every shipment from the CanAmara plant in Nipawin be tested, she said.** "We are testing every sample with every (rail) car coming into the U.S. as required," Seidel said. "If the FDA finds test results satisfactory, then the car is allowed to come into the United States." The Nipawin facility crushes canola for its vegetable oil and meal, which is used as a protein supplement in livestock feed. The FDA prohibits using cattle remains to feed goats, sheep, or other cattle. The practice is believed to have caused the spread of mad cow disease in Great Britain. A third party bought the canola meal from the Nipawin plant and shipped it to Vancouver, where it tested positive.

Source: http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_rt.jsp?section=news&news_id=reu-n13452256-u1&feed=reu&date=20040113&cat=INDUSTRY

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Water Sector

19. *January 14, El Paso Times* — **Reservoirs inspected following vandalism. Two El Paso, TX, water tank reservoirs may have been broken into, El Paso Water Utilities said Tuesday.** Monday night, utility workers discovered the hatch removed from a reservoir near Alabama Street and Zion Drive on Fort Bliss property. Tuesday, the hatch was found missing from the Summit reservoir near Piedras Street and Taylor Avenue in Central El Paso, utility officials said. **"Test results indicate no toxic agents were introduced into the water supply," the utility said in a news release.** The FBI, city fire department, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality responded to the incident. **All 60 El Paso reservoirs were inspected.** Both vandalized reservoirs were removed from the water distribution system when the discoveries were made. The Fire Department Hazardous Material team entered the 2.7 million gallon tank to take water samples. The U.S. Center for Disease Control was contacted for assistance and additional tests will be done on the water, officials said. Results will be available in 48 hours. Both reservoirs will remain out of service until then.

Source: http://www.borderlandnews.com/stories/borderland/20040114-68_124.shtml

20. *January 14, Daily Sentinel – Colorado* — **Population growth to strain Colorado water supply. By 2030, the Colorado River basin will have a population of more than 490,000, nearly double the 248,000 listed in the 2000 census. Preliminary estimates also showed a**

58 percent increase in demands for municipal and industrial water use in the basin by 2030. The figures were presented Tuesday at the second of four Colorado water-supply-initiative basin roundtable meetings. The initiative is a state-mandated project to help Colorado maintain an adequate water supply and plan for future needs. It began in June 2003 and is scheduled to be completed in November. Within the Colorado River basin, preliminary estimates show Mesa County could need another 17,773 acre-feet a year to meet its municipal and industrial demands by 2030. Garfield County may need 15,855 acre-feet and Eagle County 14,510 acre-feet. How the basin water supplies can meet that demand is the next step in the process, said project manager Rick Brown.

Source: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/newsfd/auto/feed/news/2004/01/14/1074086144.26609.8857.1139.html:COXnetJSessionID=AFMUCbZ6RrDmmqHZPdTY2umA1cZAKjMvF0UO2dBgGx40Vi0wv5in!-1487468566?urac=n&urvf=10740889802150.5868853753847109>

21. *January 13, KMBC-TV Missouri* — **Water departments eye low Missouri river.** It is not a water crisis yet, but it is dangerously close to being one as the Missouri River hits a record low, KMBC reported Tuesday. **Water Department officials say that after a four-year drought, its pumps cannot hold out much longer. On Sunday the Missouri river hit a record 7.9 feet below normal. "Minus 7.9 is really nerve wracking, but minus 7.4 is more than our pumps are technically able to do," said Mary Lappin, of the Kansas City, MO, Water Department.** This week that the Army Corps of Engineers opened dams up the river, pouring 15,000 cubic feet of water downstream a second. It will continue at that pace all week. Cities and industries along the river are already planning for crisis mode, KMBC reported. Upstream in Kansas City, KS, Johnson County is already laying pipe on an intricate pumping system. Cities are also considering digging more wells to seek more water sources. **If the drought continues just one more year, the river could drop to 10 feet below normal, effectively drying up.** "We would never be totally out of water, but we would certainly have to alter our use if we couldn't use the river intake," Lappin said.

Source: <http://www.thekansascitychannel.com/news/2761771/detail.html>

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Public Health Sector

22. *January 14, Associated Press* — **Avian flu could be worse than SARS.** The bird flu that has raced through chicken farms in Asia and killed at least three people in Vietnam could become a bigger problem for the region than Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) the World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday. The avian flu has killed millions of chickens in South Korea, Vietnam, and Japan. WHO says tests are being conducted to determine if the deaths of six additional people in Vietnam are linked to the disease, but the agency stressed that there has been no person-to-person spread of the disease. Health officials attribute infections in humans to contact with the droppings of sick birds. If the virus develops the ability to spread through human contact, it could become a big health crisis, WHO regional coordinator Peter Cordingley said Wednesday. It's "a bigger potential problem than SARS because we don't have any defenses against the disease," Cordingley said. **The concern is that once a bird flu virus enters humans, it could mix genetic material with a human flu virus. The result could be a hybrid that can spread from person to person, and which is different**

enough from previous human flu viruses that people would have no natural immunity. That could be the start of a worldwide flu pandemic.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=541&ncid=751&e=3&u=/ap/20040114/ap_on_he_me/asia_bird_flu

23. *January 14, Canadian Press* — **WHO plans rapid-response to contain spread of polio.**

With polio continuing to spread in Africa, the World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing to shore up its effort to wipe out the disease worldwide, an official said Wednesday. "We will have to do rapid-response campaigns in these countries so they don't continue to have cases," said Melissa Corkum, WHO spokesperson. One child has recently been reported infected with polio in Benin and another in Cameroon, said Corkum. Both countries had previously been considered free of polio. The disease appears to have spread from neighboring Nigeria, where it is still endemic. Five other countries in the region also reported polio has spread to them in recent months. WHO hopes urgent immunization programs in Benin and Cameroon will prevent the spread of the disease, Corkum said. Ministers of health from the six countries worst affected by polio are holding an emergency meeting on Thursday to intensify immunization campaigns with the aim of stopping polio virus transmission by the end of 2004, a year ahead of WHO's goal of eradicating the disease globally. **When WHO launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, 125 countries were affected by the disease. It has since been eradicated in Europe, the Americas, much of Asia and Australia.**

Source: <http://www.canada.com/health/story.html?id=A937A8D1-79F0-450A-9164-FD3F2A23238C>

24. *January 14, Reuters* — **Genetically engineered TB vaccine. A European drugmaker and a U.S. biotech company said on Wednesday they planned to start the first human tests of a genetically engineered tuberculosis (TB) vaccine.** The new vaccine contains a fusion of proteins from the bacteria that causes TB and the developers hope it will offer improved protection against the disease. It has already produced good results in tests on mice, guinea pigs, and monkeys. **There is a long-established vaccine against TB, which is one of the most widely-used vaccines in the world. But the product was developed 80 years ago and is only about 50 percent effective, according to some scientists.** Twenty volunteers will be enrolled into the U.S. Phase I trial of the new vaccine which will assess the product's safety and the immune response it generates. TB bacteria infect some two billion people worldwide. The bacteria are infectious and can be passed on by sneezing. **Each year some eight million people worldwide become sick as a result of TB and an estimated two million die annually from the disease,** according to the World Health Organization.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=4125160>

25. *January 14, Nature* — **Antibodies to a SARS-like virus hint at repeated infections. A virus similar to that responsible for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) infected people in Hong Kong 18 months before SARS reared its head, a recent study says.** But some experts say the result is tentative and needs to be confirmed by larger studies. A team led by Bo Jian Zheng, a microbiologist at the University of Hong Kong, analyzed nearly 940 blood samples that had originally been collected in 2001 for a research project on hepatitis B1. In the study, 17 samples carried antibodies either to the human SARS coronavirus, to a closely related animal coronavirus, or to both. The presence of such antibodies indicates that the Hong Kong

inhabitants were exposed to SARS or to one of its animal cousins long before the disease was known or named. Experts believe that the 2002 epidemic started when a coronavirus jumped from animals to humans, probably in the live–animal markets of Guangdong province, China. **The result suggests that the leap from animals to humans was not a one–off event, infectious–disease experts say. A whole family of SARS–like viruses may have been lurking in animals for years, occasionally spilling over into people,** says virologist Albert Osterhaus of Erasmus University in the Netherlands. **"There must be other viruses out there," he adds.**

Source: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/040112/040112-11.html>

26. *January 14, CBC Saskatchewan* — Computer model could help slow West Nile.

Researchers at the University of Alberta have developed a computer program they believe can stop the spread of West Nile virus. The program, developed using bird and mosquito counts from New York state, where the virus was first detected in North America in 1999, will help public health officials determine when to start spraying larvicide. As well, it can tell them how aggressive those spraying efforts should be. **"We take a bird life cycle and mosquito life cycle information and we put that into the model and then the model output tells us what proportion of mosquitos we have to kill to prevent a virus outbreak,"** Marjorie Wonham, who headed the research, said. She says they found it isn't necessary to kill all the mosquitos. Wonham says knowing how many mosquitos to kill can prevent over–spraying, which will save money. The best way to prevent an outbreak of the pests is to use larvicide when they are still at the larval stage. The researchers anticipate the computer model will be ready for use in about a year, after they gather more numbers.

Source: http://sask.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=west_nile040114

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *January 14, St. Petersburg Times (FL)* — County Hazmat team ready to respond. In July, when a suspicious 55–gallon drum was discovered in the woods adjacent to the National Guard Armory south of Brooksville, FL, officials waited hours before a loosely knit team of hazardous materials workers from Hernando and Pasco counties determined that the milky substance was nothing more than cleaning solution. Such long waits should be a thing of the past. Determining who will respond to hazardous situations and how now rests in the hands of a new county hazardous materials team. **On Tuesday, January 13, officials unveiled the team, which will be able to respond quickly to anything from a chemical attack to a fuel spill. "There are a number of large trucks that carry chemicals on the interstate and on the rail system that could spill,"** county emergency management director Thomas Leto said. **"We have to deal with these incidents."** As recently as last year, when authorities needed a hazardous materials team to respond to an incident in Hernando County, they summoned a small volunteer group

from Citrus County, which took two hours to arrive. The new team, composed of roughly 60 firefighters, paramedics, county employees and law enforcement officers, is one of the largest in the Tampa Bay area.

Source: http://www.sptimes.com/2004/01/14/Hernando/County_hazmat_team_re.shtml

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Information and Telecommunications Sector



28. *January 13, CERT/CC, NISCC* — **CERT Advisory CA-2004-01 Multiple H.323 Message Vulnerabilities.** The U.K. National Infrastructure Security Co-ordination Centre has reported multiple vulnerabilities in different vendor implementations of the multimedia telephony protocol H.323. H.323 is an international standard protocol, published by the International Telecommunications Union, used to facilitate communication among telephony and multimedia systems. Examples of such systems include VoIP, video-conferencing equipment, and network devices that manage H.323 traffic. **Exploitation of these vulnerabilities may result in the execution of arbitrary code or cause a denial of service, which in some cases may require a system reboot. Systems administrators should apply a patch or upgrade and filter network traffic.** Sites should apply network packet filters to block access to the H.323 services at network borders, including 1720/TCP and 1720/UDP. If access cannot be filtered at the network perimeter, the CERT/CC recommends limiting access to only those external hosts that require H.323 for normal operation. Some firewalls process H.323 packets and may themselves be vulnerable to attack. Certain sites may actually want to disable application layer inspection of H.323 network packets. Additional information is available on the Microsoft Website:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/ms04-001.asp>

Source: <http://www.cert.org/advisories/CA-2004-01.html>

29. *January 13, Federal Computer Week* — **Idaho governor calls for tech office.** Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne this week announced the creation of a new Office of Science and Technology to lead the state's continued efforts to enhance both areas. In his State of the State address on Monday, January 12, Kempthorne proposed a new investment of \$100,000 to start the office, but the money will also build on existing projects implemented following recommendations from the state's Science and Technology Advisory Council. The council advises the state on how science and technology can enhance Idaho's economy, and contributes to the development and implementation of the state's information technology strategic plan. Projects already underway include centers across the state that allow agencies to interface with universities and technology companies, and tech-related tax credits for research and development centers and broadband access. "You've seen the importance of science and technology to Idaho's economy," Kempthorne said. "I believe it now deserves full-time attention." Kempthorne named Karl Tueller, deputy director of the Idaho Commerce Department, to head the new office.

Source: <http://fcw.com/geb/articles/2004/0112/web-idaho-01-13-04.asp>

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: JAVE_BYTVERIFY.A Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 6129 (dameware), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 139 (netbios-ssn), 3410 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 53 (domain), 1433 (ms-sql-s) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

30. *January 14, BBC News* — **U.S. targets Sahara militant threat. A U.S. military team is in the West African state of Mauritania to give training and support to countries in the Sahel which may attract terrorists. The "Pan-Sahel Initiative" will offer training, vehicles, radios, and other equipment to help the countries improve security and border surveillance.** Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad are about as far as it is possible to get from the center of world events. But it is their very remoteness which could appeal to terrorists. They are thinly inhabited, and lightly policed. Local people, smugglers, and bandits all slip easily from one country to another, across their largely unmarked borders. All are predominantly Muslim, and their ties to the rest of the Islamic world have gotten stronger in recent years. Islamic charities, many Saudi-based or funded, are active in the region. One of Osama Bin Laden's close associates came from Mauritania. A group of western tourists kidnapped last year in the Sahara turned out to have been taken by an Algerian group with radical Islamist connections. And a group of young men modelling themselves on the Taliban have recently battled with Nigerian police along the Niger border.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3397001.stm>

31. *January 14, Scotsman* — **Sanctions on terror groups unenforced in many nations. Almost 100 countries have failed to enforce United Nations' sanctions against the al Qaeda terror network and Afghanistan's ousted Taliban.** Heraldo Munoz, the chairman of the committee overseeing sanctions, called for those countries to be named and shamed into taking steps. Munoz, the Chilean ambassador to the UN, revealed the committee's uphill struggle to implement the asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo during a briefing to the Security Council on Monday. **Only 93 countries have submitted reports on measures being taken to implement sanctions, less than half the 191 UN member states, he said.** Munoz said possible reasons for the failure to comply with the requirement to submit reports include lack of political will, reporting fatigue, lack of resources and technical ability, and problems with

national co-ordination. Munoz said it was not just a matter of "naming and shaming", but of closing loopholes, adopting tougher measures, and engaging directly with countries to tell them that compliance with the sanctions resolution is mandatory.

Source: <http://www.thescotsman.co.uk/international.cfm?id=44262004>

32. *January 14, New York Times* — **Ohio cleric arrested; terror link is cited. A leading Islamic cleric who runs Ohio's largest mosque was arrested Tuesday, January 13, on charges that he concealed his ties to terrorist causes when applying for citizenship to the United States a decade ago.** The cleric, Fawaz Mohammed Damrah, has been an outspoken figure who represented Muslims in Cleveland in interfaith gatherings after the attacks of September 11, 2001, but was also forced to apologize for anti-Semitic and incendiary statements he made years earlier. In an indictment unsealed Tuesday, Damrah, who officials said is a Palestinian by birth, is accused of lying to immigration officials about his association with terrorist groups when he applied for American citizenship in 1993. **Damrah pleaded not guilty in federal court in Cleveland and was released on bond. Officials declined to discuss the evidence in any detail. He faces up to five years in prison and possible deportation if convicted.**

Federal authorities questioned Damrah, 41, after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing about his association with a Brooklyn mosque where several of the plotters gathered, and he has also associated with prominent Islamic figures like Sami Al-Arian, the former Florida professor who was indicted last year on charges of supporting terrorism.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/14/national/14TERR.html?pagewanted=all>

33. *January 13, Global Security Newswire/Agence France-Presse* — **French court investigates suspects in alleged chemical attack plot.** Six suspected Islamic extremists — including three members of the same family — appeared in a French courtroom yesterday, January 12, and were placed under formal investigation over allegations that they were aware of plans for a biological or chemical attack, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported. Placing the six under formal investigation is the first step toward charging them with "belonging to a criminal association in relation to a terrorist enterprise," AFP reported. **French authorities have accused the suspects of knowing about and aiding a plan to launch a biological weapons attack on French soil.** Police raided apartments near Paris in December 2002 and detained several people, including Menad Benchellali. Another Benchellali brother is currently being held by the U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. **The 2002 plotters were prepared to use ricin and botulinum toxins for terrorist attacks in France and possibly Britain, according to French police.** "I believe we have put out of action some very dangerous people," said French Justice Minister Dominique Perben.

Source: http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2004/1/13/df50c725-d617-478e-8e7a-247867cd4952.html

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